A 12

MESSAGE

Sent to the

L. Admiral Vantrump

From the

High and Mighty Lords the States General of the united Provinces, touching hostile acts toward all English ships, whether Merchants or others.

WITH

The burning and consuming of the State-house and Bank of Money at Amsterdam, and the firing of a gallant ship in the Harbour; and the debates of the States at the Hague, touchin their constituting the young Pr. of Orange, Governor of the United Provinces.

LIKEWISE,

A full and perfect relation of the late transactions betwixt the two Fleets under the command of Sir Geo. Ascue, and Admiral Vantrump upon the Downs; with Vantrumps Design to have surprised our ships in the Hope; His sailing westward, and his design therein.

Also a bloudy Fight at Sea, and the taking of divers Dutch ships by his Excellency General Blake in the Northern Seas. July 16

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A MESSAGE

Sent to

Admiral Vantrump

From

The High and Mighty Lords the States General of the Vnited Provinces.

SIR,

THe Lord Paw, Embassadour extraordinary from the States General of the United Provinces, hath made a large report to his Masters, touching his Embassie to the Common-wealth of England, since which he hath sent a messenger to the Parliament to gratifie the respects and civilities used by them towards him,

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he alſo aſſures them, that in all probability, the States will ſend yet another meſſenger. Upon his report, and a motion by him made to that purpoſe, the States have ſent a Meſſage to the Lievt. Admiral Vantrump, wherein *They expreſſely charge, require, and forbid him, or any of the Fleet under his command, to meddle with, hinder, or diſturb by any hoſtile act, any Engliſh ſhip whatſoever, not offering injury or affront to them; but to let them paſſe freely without let or moleſtation, untill they have made their full reſolutions, touching the report made by the Lord Embaſſadour Paw.* So that all hopes of a peace with England is not quite taken away, notwithſtanding the ſtrong endeavors of a hot ſpirited party among us, who deſire nothing more then to ſee the two nations imbroyled in a cruel and bloudy war.

The people notwithſtanding are arming every where, and every *Stadt* re-inforced both with Cavalry and Infantry; even the Hague it ſelf is made a garriſon; and all ſhips fit for ſervice are ſtopt and entertained, although the men have ſmall ſtomacks to engage with your men of war, who they know want not courage to receive and entertain them; many of the Eaſt-India Fleet are rigging and preparing for war, that Company apprehending, that if matters go not according to their expectation, they ſhal be called to an account for the buſineſſe of Amboina: and for the defence of our frontier towns, we have ſent abroad to forraign Princes to aſſiſt us, who will (no doubt) be as ready to ſupply us, as we to deſire their aid, though but to ſerve their own ends.

Much ſcuffling there is among the States, for the making the young Prince of Orange Governour, and very violently hath the motion been followed by all the Provinces, Holland onely excepted, which ſtrongly appoſeth it: Count William hath been named for Lievt. General; but

but many fear if this motion ſhould take effect, he would introduce forraign forces amongſt us, and ſo betray our liberty, having the D. of Brandenburgh, and the Grave of Embden his brothers. But while theſe things were in deep conſultation at the Hague, the element of fire raged in this City in a double misfortune both on the water and on the land: on the water we had a new ſhip fired, how, or by what means we cannot certainly learn, but this I am ſure of, that if great pains and induſtry had not been uſed for the ſpeedy extinguiſhing thereof, it would in all likelihood have fired and burnt our fire ſhips, which lay near them, but are ſince gone out to our Fleet. To ſecond this, the State-houſe of this City was ſuddenly fired and burnt down to the ground, we having as little knowledge of the author or cauſe of this as of the former. Many there was that cried out Treaſon, Treaſon, verily conjecturing it could be nothing elſe, and that ſome that envied the glory and riches of that City, had on purpoſe out of malice done it; however much they owe to heaven that there was ſo little wind, had the wind been high, the pride of this City had been laid in the duſt. Much of the Bank-money lay in that place; and is melted to the great grief (no doubt) of thoſe that laid it for ſecurity and profit in that place; generally the people ſtill continue high in their language, and ſeem loth to truſt thoſe Engliſh that ſo faithfully ſerved them againſt the Spaniard, but rather rely upon ſuch forraign auxiliaries, as it is believed will rather ſeek the way to ruine us, thereby to advantage themſelves, then endeavour to put a period to our troubles.

Amſterdam, July 16, ſtil. novo. 1652.

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A Letter from the Downs, containing a full and perfect Narrative of Admiral Vantrumps facing of Sir George Ascue with a Fleet of above an hundred Sail.

SIR,

I Received yours of the 12 instant, wherein you desire to be informed touching the transactions betwixt our Fleet under Sir George Ascue, and the Dutch under Vantrump; for your satisfaction take this accompt. Some of the Scouts Sir Geo. Ascue had sent out, returned the 8 of this instant July, declaring that they had descried above 60 sail of Dutchmen in the Downs, Sir George then riding with part of his Fleet near Deal Castle, the other part was in the Hope, intending towards him. The enemy seemed to design an interception of that party, and then to fight Sir George. But Sir Geo. knowing they were not well provided for fight, sent to them, commanding them to continue there till he should send them further Order; and with those he had (being not 20 sail) he resolved to fight it out, what ever Fleet should attempt to engage him, and prepared himself in the best manner he could to receive them, howbeit there was no attempt made upon him that night nor the next day, during which time he received aboard him 200 foot souldiers, distributing them among his Fleet.

On Saturday the Dutch came in sight, we conceived them to be about an hundred and two Men of War, and ten or twelve fire ships; they were divided into 3 squadrons, viz. 35 sail with the Admiral on the back of the Goodwin;

Goodwin; Three leagues Eastward of him was another squadron consisting of 40 sail, and the third at Longsands-head, which lay in a posture to intercept our ships as aforesaid, and to keep Sir George from steering Westward. The next day being Sunday, very early, the intent of the enemy being frustrated, those ships which were comming forth being returned into the River according to Order, he divided his Fleet into two parts, the greatest part (consisting of about 75 sail) bore up directly towards Sir George between the Brake head, and North sands-head, whilest the rest of the Fleet, being about 35 sail, lay upon the back of the Goodwin, to intercept Sir George, if their Fire-ships should constrain him to quit his anchors. But the Tide of Ebb being done, and but little wind, the enemy was compelled to anchor about a league distant from our Fleet, expecting the opportunity of the next Tide of Ebb to fall upon Sir George, who knowing that both his Officers, Mariners and Souldiers were filled with courage and resolution, prepared himself for their reception. In the mean time six peeces of Ordnance were mounted on two Platforms between twen the Castles of Deal and Sandown, which might annoy the enemy if he should engage; The Militia of the Countrey, both horse and foot, were also on their march thitherwards.

Whilest all things were thus disposed, and our souldiers both Seamen and Landmen, with great chearfulness and courage attended the falling on of the enemy, the wind turned, so that the Dutch could not come in as they intended, and at Ebb it came to South-west, which was very disadvantageous to the enemy, who finding that providence fought against them, weighed, and stood back again to the back of the Goodwin about 5 a clock, where meeting altogether, they steered away.

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I cannot omit to tell you, that above two hundred Seamen, to ſhew their good affection and zeal to the Parliament, came voluntarily and freely in to aſſiſt our Fleet, there were alſo divers fire-ſhips preparing at Dover, to be made uſe of for entertaining of the Hollanders Navy, had they approached any nearer; They thought to have performed Wonders upon our Fleet here in the abſence of General Blake, but the Lord was pleaſed to diſappoint them, and bring to nought their Counſels.

From the Downs, July 14.
1652.

His Excellency Gen. Blake hath been all this while, and is yet Northwards with a very gallant fleet of ſhips, and ſome letters I have ſeen from the North, which ſay, That there hath been a great Fight between a part of General Blakes Fleet, and the Dutch in the Northern ſeas, and that Gen. Blake hath taken divers Dutch ſhips, fiſhermen and others, but no letters are yet come from his navy to confirm it. It was conjectured by many that a ſquadron of Vantrumps Fleet ſailed Northwards, but we underſtand ſince that they are all together, and are gone Weſtward, thinking thereby to draw Gen. Blake from the North.

FINIS.

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